

REMARKS

1. The application was filed with Claims 1-29, of which Claims 26-29 were previously cancelled without prejudice in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement. Claims 30-33 were added in a previous amendment. Claims 1-25, and 30-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 16 and 30 have been amended. No new matter was added in making the amendments, for which support is found at least in the drawings, Fig. 5, in the text from the specification accompanying Fig. 5, at p. 8, line 16, to p. 10, line 1, and in the claims as originally filed.

2. The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the first sheet contains different figures unrelated to the previous figures, and because of informalities in other of the figures. There was no need to change the first sheet of drawings, and the Examiner has correctly refused to enter the changed first sheet. Only one sheet requires correction and the Examiner is requested to enter the corrected sheet of drawings attached in Appendix A.

3. The Examiner's objections to the drawings necessitate minor changes to the specification. An amendment to the specification is shown above. No new matter was added in editing the specification.

4. The Examiner is thanked for withdrawing the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner has found new grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and has objected to informalities in Claims 1, 16 and 30. Non-narrowing amendments have been made to these claims to correct antecedent basis as pointed out by the Examiner.

5. The Examiner has rejected Claims 9-18, 20-23, 25, and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. RE34612 to Walter Bender et al. ("Bender"). The rejection states that as to Claims 9-12, and given the structure of Bender, the method of interfacing the driving member with the driven member is inherently anticipated. The rejection also enumerates as present in Bender the limitations of each of Claims 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 31, 32, and 33.

Applicants traverse the rejections. Claim 9 is a method claim, in which the first step of the method is to provide a driving member and a driven member with matching polygonal lengths, in which there is a small twist in one of the members, the twist being between two straight portions along an axis of the lengths. Fig. 4 of Bender discloses a shaft with a twist, but the twist does not include the limitation recited in Claim 9, "wherein one of the driving member and the driven member has a portion of the length twisted from about $0^{\circ} 10'$ to about 1° between two straight portions along an axis of the length." In Fig. 4 of Bender, the twist clearly does not meet this limitation, since the twist is depicted at about 90° . See also the accompanying text at col. 4, lines 52-55, stating that the twist is about 90° . Bender contemplates no smaller twist angles. The twist in Bender is 90° so that the machine will index the same amount as the twist. Col. 4, lines 55-60.

Accordingly, Bender does not disclose the limitations of Claim 9, which is therefore not anticipated by Bender. Because Claim 9 is allowable, all claims in this rejection depending from Claim 9 are also allowable, including Claims 10-18. The same argument given above for Claim 9 also applies to independent Claims 20 and 30, and their dependent claims, Claims 21-23, 25 and 31-33. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claims 9-18, 20-23, 25 and 30-33.

6. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1-3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over German patent 3,511,813 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,533,235 to Anthony Dymerski et al. ("Dymerski"). The rejection states that the German patent discloses all the limitations of Claim 1 except for the at least one concave or convex surface. The rejection also states that Dymerski discloses the concave or convex surface, citing polygonal length 200 in Dymerski.

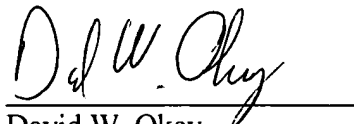
The German patent and Dymerski do not disclose or describe all the limitations of amended Claim 1, particularly the now-emphasized claim limitation that the twisted portion is between two straight portions along the axis of the length. The German patent and Dymerski each disclose only a single twist, so that there is no twisted polygonal length that lies between two straight portions along an axis of the length. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-8 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

7. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1, 4, 19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. RE34612 to Walter Bender et al. ("Bender") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,533,235 to Anthony Dymerski et al. ("Dymerski"). The rejection states that Bender discloses all of the elements of the inventions claimed in Claims 1, 4, 19 and 24, except for having at least one concave or convex surface, and that Dymerski discloses a concave surface. Applicants traverse the rejections under Bender and Dymerski. The limitations of as-filed Claim 4 have been added to Claim 1, and Claim 4 has been re-phrased, also in a non-narrowing manner. Bender and Dymerski do not show two straight portions of a polygonal length with a twisted portion between them. Another way to express this limitation is to state that the polygonal length has a first portion that is straight, and then has a first twist in one direction and a second twist in another direction. Bender and Dymerski show only a single twist, not two twists in sequence along a polygonal length.

Claim 1 has been amended in a non-narrowing manner to include a twisted portion between two straight portions of a polygonal length along the axis of length, which is not disclosed in Bender or Dymerski. Claims 19 and 24 depend from allowable Claims 14 and 20, and are thus also allowable.

8. Applicants have also amended claims to overcome informalities. Applicants further request that the Examiner enter the amendment, which places the claims in form for allowance, withdraw rejections for anticipation and obviousness, and advance the claims to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Okey
Reg. No. 42,959
Attorneys for Applicants

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BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200